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The Observatorio Astrofísico de Javalambre: project status

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Abstract

The Centro de Estudios de Física del Cosmos de Aragón (CEFCA; http://www.cefca.es/) is in charge of the definition, design, construction and operation of the Observatorio Astrofísico de Javalambre (OAJ). The OAJ is a robotic observatory under construction at the Sierra de Javalambre, Teruel (Spain), particularly thought for carrying out large scale surveys with two telescopes of large field of view (FoV): T250 (2.5 m aperture; 3 deg diameter FoV) and T80 (0.8 m aperture; 2 deg diameter FoV). The OAJ, apart from the buildings of the two telescopes, will contain four annex buildings: 1) the general building (control room, laboratories and residence), 2) the mirror aluminizing plant, 3) the seeing and extinction monitor building, and 4) the installations building (generators, tanks, etc). All the buildings will be connected by underground galleries. The OAJ telescopes are in their design phases. The optical designs of both telescopes are approved and the blanks of their M1 and M2 mirrors are in polishing process. The M1 blank of T250 (made of Zerodur by Schott AG) was accepted on November 9th, 2010, and has recently started to be ground at the AMOS (http://www.amos.be) factory. The Preliminary Design Review of T250 was passed in October 27th, 2010. The bulk of the civil work related with the annex buildings is planed to be finished in 2010, while the telescope buildings and domes are due for 2011. T80 and T250 are expected to be operative in 2011 and 2012 respectively.